IVETTE LOPEZ BLEDSOE, MSW 808 COLORADO STREET • FORT COLLINS, CO 80524 (970) 416-9952 STAR 198 NOV 30 P 2 A 1 November 16, 1999 Dr. Jane E. Henny, Commissioner Food and Drug Administration 5600 Fishers Lane, HF-1 Rockville, MD 20857 Dear Commissioner **Henny**: I recently read in various sources of consumer news that genetically engineered foods are moving into the main stream food industry. Several of the articles clearly implied that these new genetically engineered foods might not be labeled accordingly. As a health educator, social worker and avid health enthusiast, I am very concerned about the safety of the food the public and I chooses to eat. It is uncertain as to what level of health risks genetically engineered foods pose to the environment and humans. The idea of the FDA keeping this information from the public is frightening! Is it not our birth right in this country to have

access to information that could potentially damage our health? Furthermore, is it ethical to hide information from consumers regarding the quality of their food?

This past May, a lawsuit was filed challenging the FDA's policy that does not require labels on transgenic foods. I strongly support this lawsuit's demand for safety testing and complete and **prominent labels.** It is not fair to treat human beings as unknowing guinea pigs in the agricultural industry's experiments with potentially dangerous foods. I am very willing to use my education and life energy to read food labels.

I am eager to hear whether or not the FDA is living up to its mandate to protect public health and if they will provide consumers with the information needed regarding the food we eat.

Sincerely,

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Dr. **Jane** E. Henny, Commissioner Food and Drug Administration 5600 Fishers Lane, HF-1 Rockville, MD 20857